

## Letter from Gardiner Greene Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, November 18, 1874, with transcript

L 1874 Telegraph G.G.H. to A.G.B. Nov. 18 Washington, D.C.

I arrived here this morning and found your papers waiting for me. I called with them on Mr. Pollok and after discussing the matter with him, became satisfied that it was very unwise to file the Caveat, as it might do you great injury.

We start upon the ground that Mr. Gray has a patent for an invention which you may have made prior to the date of his invention, but your application says that you “are engaged in making experiments for the purpose of perfecting the same preparatory to his applying for Letters Patent.” This implies therefore that while Gray has perfected his invention you are experimenting on yours and of course have made no invention. ¶ Second, — A Caveat is filed as a preventive against persons coming after you and does not therefore against those already having a patent.

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You will notice that these same objections were suggested by me in reference to certain parts of your specification, that you must describe what you had done, and not what you conceived might be done.

I shall not therefore file the Caveat unless you direct me to do so.

I think your true plan is to complete all your instruments and experiments as rapidly as you can, and when you have tested the apparatus then apply for a Patent. You should lose no time in this as every day may prejudice our interests. There is now I think a better chance of the successful inauguration of any new and valuable inventions in Telegraphy like yours than there has been for a long time, or may be for a long time to come. I trust 3 you will

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therefore give all the time you can spare from your regular engagements being careful not to neglect them, to the perfection of your Instruments.

I hope you have a satisfactory arrangement for room at Mr. Farmer. I shall be home about the middle of next week and then shall wish to see Mr. Sanders with you.